Dear Gurwin Residents and Family Members:

As you know, we are required by the NY State Department of Health (DOH) to inform you any time we have a new positive case of COVID-19 among our staff or residents, and to provide weekly updates on the incidence of the COVID-19 virus in our facility and our cumulative numbers associated with the pandemic since its inception.

We are writing today to inform you that we received notice late yesterday of a positive test result for one of our staff members who is fully vaccinated. This serves as a reminder that, although the vaccination does decrease the likelihood that someone will test positive for COVID-19, it is not 100% effective in preventing infection. The reason we encourage everyone to get vaccinated is to prevent severe illness and death should one contract the disease and to further herd immunity. The staff member, as well as the resident reported positive earlier this week, are both asymptomatic and were found through our regular surveillance testing, as required by the DOH.

Unfortunately, due to this most recent positive result, regular indoor visitation will need to remain paused until June 23, per DOH regulations. However, outdoor visitation will continue through next Tuesday, at which time a new DOH Directive will take effect:

**Personal Compassionate Caregiver Visitor:** The DOH recently revised regulations to allow nursing home residents or their designated representative the opportunity to assign specific individuals (friends and family) to a “preferred visitor” list, which will enable indoor visitation even when regular indoor visitation is paused due to a positive test result among our residents or staff. Residents who are able will choose for themselves who they want on their list; otherwise, their designated representative will be contacted within the next several days to create the list with one of our staff members. This list will be used going forward any time the facility experiences a positive test result which pauses regular visitation, as these designated visitors will still be allowed access to residents in their rooms through our regular scheduling process, regardless of our visitation status. This does not extend to units on contact precautions; units designated on quarantine will be restricted from visitation until quarantine is lifted.

What does this mean?

- Visitation will continue outdoors as scheduled through Wednesday, June 15.
- On Monday, June 14, at 3:30 PM, sign ups will be posted for Personal Compassionate Caregiver Visitors only at bit.ly/GurwinVisits. Each resident will be allowed three visits per week, for 90 minutes per visit, during this time.
- Beginning Thursday, June 17, only designated visitors will be permitted to visit on non-quarantined units until full visitation opens on June 23, pending test results.
Weekly Cumulative Statistics for COVID-19

Residents who test positive are moved to our COVID-19 isolation unit, and cared for there for a minimum of 14 days, until a negative clinical test result is received. Currently, we have one resident who is COVID-19 positive in our facility. Since the pandemic began, we have celebrated well more than 250 recoveries; sadly, we mourn 67 residents who were lost to the virus.

Since March 2020, 282 staff members have tested positive for the virus. Most staff members who test positive are asymptomatic and found through our weekly surveillance testing protocols. Regardless, any staff member testing positive is required to quarantine at home for 14 days, and may only return to work after receiving a negative clinical test result. More than 62% of our staff is now vaccinated against COVID-19, and we continue to vaccinate in-house as new staff members are ready or as new residents are admitted. Our resident vaccination rate is more than 90%.

Please be assured you will be promptly notified by phone if your loved one is identified as a suspected or positive case of COVID-19, is on a floor which is quarantined, or has any other significant change in condition. You will find past Family and Resident Updates on our website at www.gurwin.org/family-updates/ should you need to access them. Thank you, as always, for your support. We look forward to seeing you soon!

The Gurwin Care Team

Schedule a visit with your loved one. Go to bit.ly/GurwinVisits to sign up.

Before you visit, check for daily visitation updates at (631) 715-2200.

Want to get vaccinated? Our in-house pharmacy is now providing vaccinations to resident and staff family members who are interested. Sign up at bit.ly/GurwinVaccineClinic, or email CovidVaccine@gurwin.org for more information. We are currently offering the Moderna vaccine and the Johnson & Johnson vaccine.

Video Chat with your loved one: email videochat@gurwin.org. (Limit one per family per week, please.)

Send your loved one a Gurwin Gram Gram. Send a short video to us via Facebook Messenger or by email to info@gurwin.org, and we’ll deliver your good wishes.


Gurwin Healthcare System
631.715.2000 | 68 Hauppauge Road • Commack, NY 11725 | gurwin.org